

**To:** Maier, Brent[Maier.Brent@epa.gov]; Montgomery, Michael[Montgomery.Michael@epa.gov]  
**From:** Albright, David  
**Sent:** Tue 2/10/2015 8:23:07 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Congresswoman Lois Capps Staff Inquiry on Sespe Oil Field issues

Hi Brent,

I looked into this matter regarding the Sespe Oil Field. Here is my suggested response. If a follow-up call is needed, I'm happy to do that as well. Mike is on travel, but will be back in the office Thursday. Thanks, David

The links below are two articles about the recently release draft EIR from DOGGR concerning the Sespe Oil Fields.

Questions:

1) I was wondering how this relates to EPA's actions regarding the state allowing the improper injection from oil wells into drinkable aquifers? In short, the draft EIR pertains to stimulation techniques (hydraulic fracturing and acidization) for oil/gas production wells. EPA does not regulate these stimulation techniques in production wells, except in the case where diesel fuels are used to hydraulically fracture production wells. By contrast, the issue of improper injection into non-exempt aquifers pertains to injection (not production) wells. EPA regulates injection wells under the Safe Drinking Water Act's Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program, and the State of CA has primacy for the UIC program that relates to oil and gas injection (Class II).

2) Are these fields included in the EPA actions? Based on lists of roughly 2,500 injection wells that the State believes are potentially injecting into non-exempt aquifers, there are 5 injection wells listed for the Sespe Oil Field. These 5 injection wells are noted as disposal wells and 3 are listed as active with the other 2 listed as inactive. The 3 active disposal wells in the Sespe Oil Field are shown to be completed/injecting into aquifers in the 3,000 ppm – 10,000 ppm TDS range, which means continued injection would require approval of an aquifer exemption.

**From:** Maier, Brent  
**Sent:** Monday, February 09, 2015 3:58 PM  
**To:** Albright, David; Montgomery, Michael  
**Subject:** Congresswoman Lois Capps Staff Inquiry on Sespe Oil Field issues  
**Importance:** High

David/Mike –

I received a call today from Greg Haas in Congresswoman Lois Capps' office and following the call, he sent me the attached inquiry regarding the Sespe Oil Fields. He would like to know how this relates to EPA's actions regarding the state allowing the improper injection from oil wells into drinkable aquifers and would like to know whether the Sespe Oil Fields are included in EPA's ongoing actions. Please let me know how you would like for me to respond, and whether you would like for me to set up a call with him to discuss.

Brent Maier

Congressional Liaison

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**From:** Haas, Greg [<mailto:greg.haas@mail.house.gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 09, 2015 1:59 PM  
**To:** Maier, Brent  
**Subject:** Sespe Oil Field issues

Brent,

The links below are two articles about the recently release draft EIR from DOGGR concerning the Sespe Oil Fields. I was wondering how this relates to EPA's actions regarding the state allowing the improper injection from oil wells into drinkable aquifers? Are these fields included in the EPA actions?

Greg

805 546-8348

<http://www.kcet.org/news/define/rewire/natural-gas/report-fracking-imperils-southern-california-residents-wildlife.html>

<http://lpfw.org/draft-report-reveals-significant-environmental-impacts-of-fracking-in-ventura-countys-sespe-oil-field/>